

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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MEMBER
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE JANICE GIEGLER IN SUPPORT OF
SB 1069 AN ACT CONCERNING DEATH CERTIFICATE FEE WAIVERS FOR
VETERANS

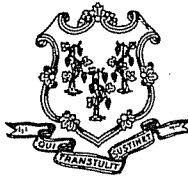
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Hennessy, and members of the Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs, for the record my name is Janice Giegler, State Representative for the 138th District. I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1069, An Act Concerning Death Certificate Fee Waivers for Veterans.

This bill is intended to give the families of a deceased veteran, the necessary death certificates needed to file papers on behalf of a deceased US Veteran for burial and survivor benefits at a minimal expense to them and at the same time, recognize their service given to our country on behalf of the State.

When the death certificate of an individual who died in the State of Connecticut is filed and recorded in the town of death by the funeral director having charge of the body or his/her representative, as required by state statute, the Town Clerk or Registrar of Vital Statistics shall note to see if the decedent was a US veteran as indicated on the death certificate. If the decedent was a US veteran, said Town Clerk or Registrar of Vital Statistics shall provide at least one (1) copy of the certified death certificate at no expense to said funeral director or family in order to make application for any and all veteran benefits with the US Veterans Administration or any state and local veteran administration.



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In order to apply to the US Veterans Administration for burial benefits and to the Connecticut Veterans, a certified copy of the death certificate must be forwarded to each of these veteran administrations. It is unfortunate that the family must pay \$20 per certificate in order to provide the Federal and State, a certified death certificate in order to apply for veteran widow, dependent children and burial benefits. New York State automatically gives the first certificate at no charge when it is stated on the death certificate that the deceased is a veteran. New York State Public Health – Title 7-4173 Records refers to Veteran Death Certificates “except that no fee shall be charged for a search.....or when required by the veterans administration to be used in determining the eligibility of any person to participate in the benefits made available by the Veterans Administration”.

In addition, another death certificate is required when applying to the Soldiers, Sailors and Marine Fund for assistance when the deceased veteran has no financial assistance.

One might consider such a fee to a family minimal, but with the funeral costs escalating, this is a small benefit for our veteran families in obtaining all the death certificates they need in receiving those benefits to which they are entitled for their member who provided service to our country.

Many thanks for your time and giving consideration to the favorable passage of SB 1069.

Sincerely,

Representative Janice R. Giegler